Translated by Abby Lehrke
Adapted by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc

MangaBox

ZERO

CHAPTER 13: HINTS

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS

WRITTEN BY
SEIMARU AMAGI

ART BY
HAKUS

ORIGINAL STORY
KOEI TECMO GAMES

N...
ROOOOOOO!!
THE MONSTER BEFORE THEM...
DEATH COMING NEAR...

shing

NGH...
Shing
Shing
Shing
Shing
N... NO...!
Shing
Fwoosh...

YOU TWO... ARE...
fwump
AND TSU-GUMI.
MOZU.
SO... YOU CAN TALK...
IS THAT A SACRED STRAW ROPE?
AND THOSE ZIG-ZAG PAPER STREAMERS THEY'RE SHIDE MEANT TO EVOKE THE IMAGE OF LIGHTNING TO DISPEL EVIL SPIRITS...

DESPITE MY APPEARANCE, WHEN I WAS YOUNG, THE REASON I BECAME AN ACADEMIC...
R... REALLY ?

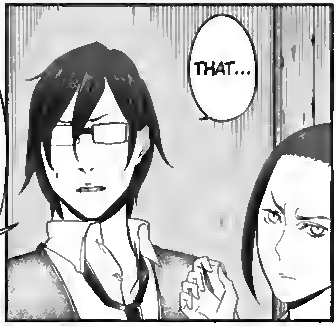
Kachk
WAS BECAUSE OF MY INTEREST IN ANCIENT JAPANESE TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS. PERHAPS THAT'S WHY I CAN TAKE IN THESE "THINGS THAT SHOULD NOT BE" THAT I AM SEEING NOW.

THAT'S WHAT A SCHOLAR DOES.

HEY...!
GRAB
BIG TALK FOR A GUY WHO SCREWED AROUND WITH SUZUMORI!
HER HATING YOU IS THE REASON WE GOT INTO THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
THUNK
N... NO, YOU SEE...
IT WASN'T SCREWING AROUND

Shinnng
WE CANNOT SEAL EVIL SPIRITS AWAY. WE CAN MERELY ERECT BARRIERS AGAINST THEM.
WE MUST LOOK FOR THE SHADOW PRIESTESS, AS SHE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEAL AWAY EVIL SPIRITS.

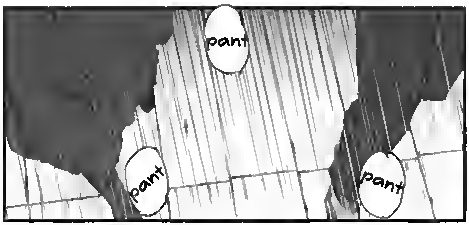
nod
nod
THAT'S SARA WASHI-ZUKI, RIGHT?

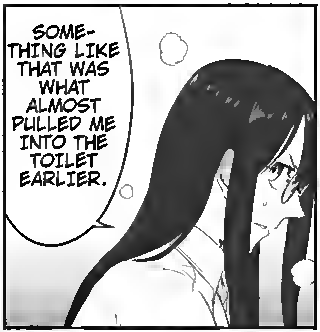

THAT...

THAT THING IS STILL WANDER-ING AROUND IN HERE.

IT'LL FIND YOU AND KILL YOU AT SOME POINT.
WH... UH...

LET'S GO.

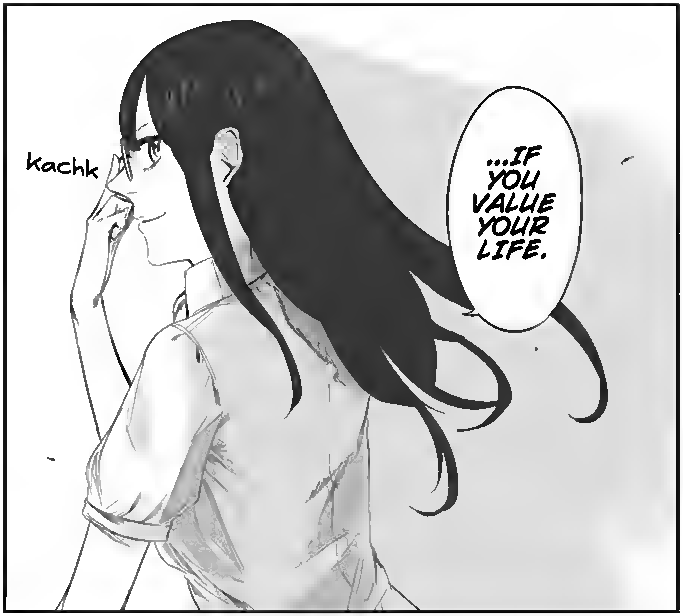

pant
pant
pant

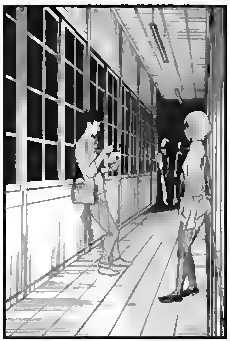

SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT WAS
WHAT
ALMOST
PULLED ME
INTO THE
TOILET
EARLIER.

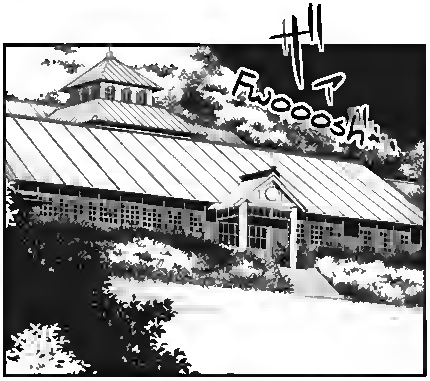
WH...
WHAT THE
HECK?
THAT
THING
CAN'T BE
REAL!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?"
....
AN EVIL
SPIRIT,
OBVI-
OUSLY.

S... SORRY, FORCE OF HABIT...
WHAT?! THIS IS NO TIME FOR THAT!
W...WOW, YOU TAKE YOUR GLASSES OFF AND YOU GET PRETTY CUTE.
I kinda like it
SHE'S GOT A CAMERA... I THINK IT'S CALLED A CAMERA OBSCURA...
ANYWAY, WE HAVE TO FIND THE SHADOW PRIEST-ESS.
...AND WITH THAT, WE CAN SEAL AWAY THOSE "UNREAL THINGS."
STICK CLOSE...
I... I DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT I'LL COME WITH YOU.


kachk
...IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE.



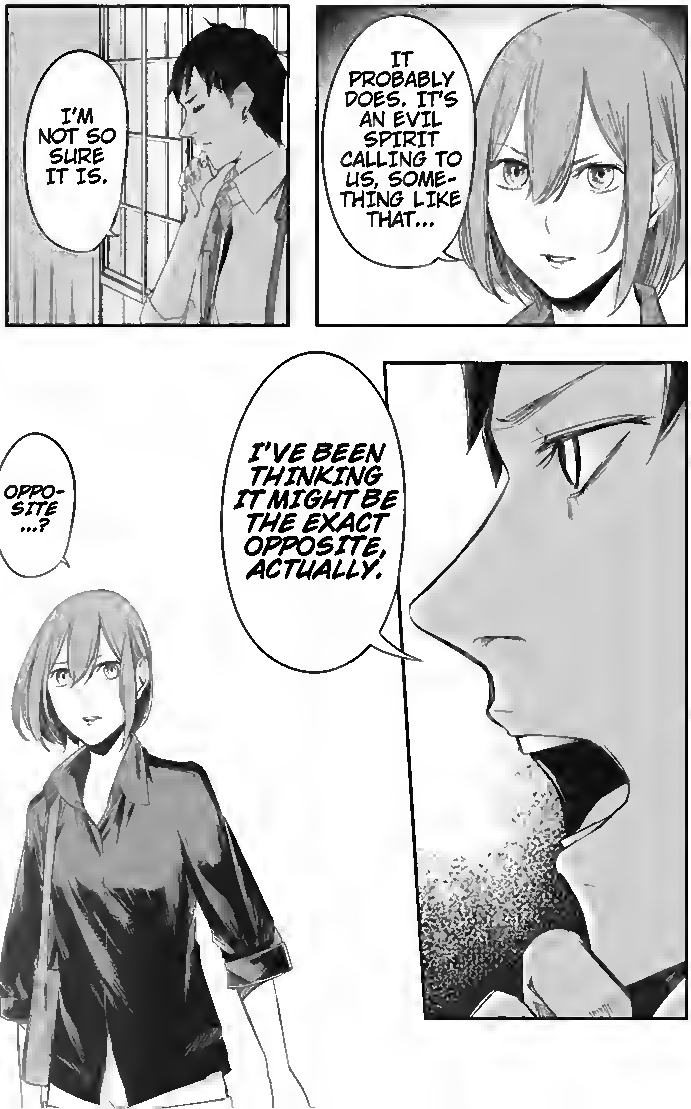

FWOOSH

skrtch
skrtch...
WHAT ARE YOU WRITING, RYUU-ZAKI-SAN?
.....
THE CLUES THAT THE SPIRITS WE'VE SEEN SO FAR HAVE GIVEN US.

THE FIRST SIGN WAS THE HANDS THAT CAME OUT OF THE WELL AT YOUR HOME WHEN WE VISITED--THE ONES THAT SHOWED US THE NUMBERS FIVE, TWO, AND FOUR.

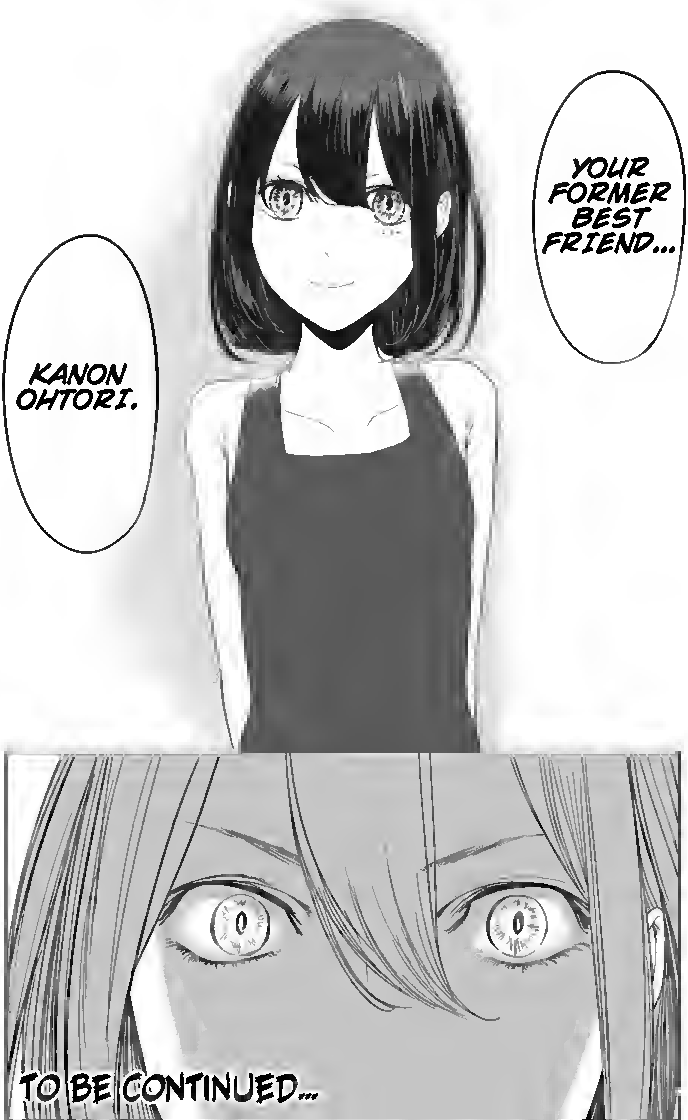
THE THIRD WAS THE UNNATURAL POUND SYMBOL CARVED INTO THE BATH-ROOM MIRROR.
THE SECOND SIGN WAS THE WINDOW IN THE BATH WHERE KUMI SUZUMORI DISAPPEARED-- THE SANSKRIT CHARACTER "TARAK" WRITTEN IN HAIR.
....

fwip...
...LOOK AT THIS PHOTO.
AND ALSO, THOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WAS A SIGN...
I TOOK IT IN THE BATH AT YOUR HOME WITH A FILM CAMERA.
IT MIGHT MEAN SOME-THING...
Shf...
The bath is full of snakes?
What is this...?
NGH...


I'M NOT SO SURE IT IS.
IT PROBABLY DOES. IT'S AN EVIL SPIRIT CALLING TO US, SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
I'VE BEEN THINKING IT MIGHT BE THE EXACT OPPOSITE, ACTUALLY.
OPPOSITE...?

YOU MUST KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, RIGHT?
IN ORDER TO RAISE A BARRIER TO TRAP ALL OF US IN HERE, THEY HAVE TO HIDE CLUES IN EACH OF THE 12 CARDINAL DIRECTIONS FOR US TO FIND.
IF WE FIGURE OUT ALL OF THOSE CLUES, IT'LL REVEAL THE NECROMANCER AMONG US. AND IF WE CAN CONFRONT HIM...
...WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESTROY THE BARRIER AND GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.

SURE, I KNOW THAT...
BUT EVIL SPIRITS LIE.
ANY OF THESE SIGNS YOU'VE FOUND COULD BE A TRAP TO CONFUSE US.
I THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO HELP US.
I THINK THEY'RE A MESSAGE FOR US FROM A SPECIFIC PERSON.
BUT WHO?
...


YOUR FORMER BEST FRIEND...
KANON OHTORI.
TO BE CONTINUED...